

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2855

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USUN 1008

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1792

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: GOG CONCERN OVER RECENT TURKISH ACTIONS AND
THEIR EFFECT ON PROGRESS OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS.

1. SUMMARY: METAXAS, DIR SECOND POLITICAL DIVISION
(CYPRUS AND TURKEY) CALLED CHARGE TO MFA MAR 21 TO
INFORM USG OF GREEK GOVT CONCERN THAT PROGRESS ON
INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WAS SERIOUSLY THREATNEED BY RECENT
TURKISH ACTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. METAXAS CLAIMED CONSTITUTIONAL EXPERTS DEKLERIS AND
ALDIKACTI HAD AGREED ON PRINCIPLES FOR STATE
CONTROL OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION WHICH DEKLERIS THEN PUT
INTO WRITING. ALDIKACTI STUDIED DOCUMENT BUT POSTPONED
NEXT MEETING. NOW DENKTASH HAS INDICATED TURKISH SIDE
DOES NOT AGREE.

3. FURTHERMORE, ACCORDING TO METAXAS, DENKTASH GAVE AN
INTERVIEW TEN DAYS AGO TO THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE
ZEITUNG IN WHICH HE DENIED RUMORS OF PROGRESS ON THE
INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, ACCUSED GREECE OF SUPPORTING EOKA,
COMPLAINED THAT NATO WAS NOT HELPING TO PREVENT ENOSIS
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AND SAID AN INDEPENDENT STRIKE FORCE WAS BEING READIED

ON THE SOUTH COAST OF TURKEY FOR INTERVENTION IF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS FAILED.

4. IN ADDITION, METAXAS SAID THE NEW TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER WAS STICKING TO THE CONCEPT OF FEDERALISM AND THAT DIR GEN OF TURKISH MFA TOLD DIR GEN TZOUNIS, GREEK MFA, IN BRUSSELS LAST WEEK THAT THE FEDERALIST IDEA WAS HERE TO STAY. TURKS WERE ALSO CLAIMING THAT LONDON-ZURICH AGREEMENTS PROVIDED FOR FEDERALISM, WHICH WAS FALSE, AND CONVENIENTLY IGNORING THE 1968 UN AGREEMENT SETTING UP INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, SPOKE OF UNITARY STATE. CHARGE OBSERVED THAT UNITARY STATE DID NOT PRECLUDE FEDERALISM--E.E., US AND FRG-- TO WHICH METAXAS REPLIED THAT TURKS MEANT CONFEDERATION WHEN THEY SAID FEDERATION.

5. METAXAS SAID THAT IF TURKISH OBJECTIONS TO DEKLERIS PAPER WERE SIMPLY A QUESTION OF WORDING, CHANGES WOULD BE DISCUSSED. IF TURKS INTENDED TO REOPEN THE WHOLE AGREEMENT AND CHANGE THE PRINCIPLE OF STATE CONTROL, HOWEVER, INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WOULD GET NOWHERE AND SERIOUS TROUBLE COULD ENSUE. GREEK SIDE WOULD NEVER AGREE TO A STATE WITHIN A STATE.

6. METAXAS COMPLAINED THAT WHENEVER INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS SEEMED TO BE GETTING SOMEWHERE DENKTASH DISRUPTED THEM WITH THREATS AND ACCUSATIONS THAT GREEK SIDE WAS PLANNING ENOSIS. METAXAS POINTED OUT CLERIDES MAR 12 SPEECH REAFFIRMED INDEPENDENCE OF CYPRUS; GREEK GOVERNMENT REITERATED ITS SUPPORT OF INDEPENDENT CYPRUS; AND MAKARIOS RULED OUT ENOSIS AS INFEASIBLE. METAXAS CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE WAS NOT ASKING US TO DO ANYTHING BUT SIMPLY WANTED US TO KNOW THERE MIGHT BE TROUBLE AHEAD.

7. CHARGE ASKED WHETHER HARDER TURKISH LINE COULD BE A REACTION TO AEGEAN OIL ISSUE. METAXAS DOUBTED THIS AND SAID TURKS HAD NEVER LINKED AEGEAN AND CYPRUS ISSUES. IN FACT TURKS NEVER RAISED AEGEAN ISSUE IN RECENT MEDITERRANEAN LOS CONFERENCE IN ATHENS. REFERRING TO VARIOUS REPORTS
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OF TURKISH MILITARY INTERVENTION, COVERT GREEK SUPPORT OF EOKA B, IMPOSED GREEK-TURKISH SOLUTION, CHARGE REITERATED US POSITION ON INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AND CYPRUS QUESTION IN GENERAL. METAXAS DISMISSED POSSIBILITY OF AN IMPOSED SOLUTION AND REAFFIRMED GREEK GOVT SUPPORT OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AND SOVEREIGN, INDEPENDENT, UNITARY CYPRUS.

8. COMMENT: THIS APPEARS TO BE ANOTHER OF METAXAS' SELF-SERVING EFFORTS TO TRY TO CONVINCE US OF ALTOGETHER CONSTRUCTIVE GOG POSITION ON CYPRUS IN CONTRAST TO THAT OF GOT. FACT IS OF COURSE THAT PRESENT STATUS OF EVENTS ON CYPRUS SEEMS TO OVERTAKE HIS COMPLAINTS. WE CONSIDER DEMARCHE ANOTHER ONE PROBABLY PRIMARILY DESIGNED TO ESTABLISH A RECORD.

9. NICOSIA'S 476 JUST RECEIVE REQUESTS OUR COMMENTS ON DESIRABILITY DEPT'S RESPONSE TO SOVIET DMARCHE INCLUDING POINT GOG AND GOT DENY ANY PLANS FOR JOINT ACTION. METAXAS' REMARKS (PAR 7) SEEM RELEVANT IF DEPT DECIDES IT USEFUL TO GO INTO MATTER FURTHER WITH SOVIET EMBASSY.
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